

Arabic is a member of the South Central Semitic branch of the Semito-Hamitic family. Modern standard literary Arabic is the official language of about 20 countries in and surrounding the Middle East and North Africa. It is spoken in its various dialects by an estimated 150 million people. The speaker here is a twenty-four year old female from Beirut, Lebanon.

Arabic Consonants Encountered:

Stops:		t		k	q	(ʔ)
	b	d				
Fricatives:	f	s	ʃ	x	ħ	h
		z	ʒ	ʁ	ʕ	
Nasals:	m	n				
Liquids:		l				
		r / r				
Glides:			j	w		

There are also four "velarized, emphatic" consonants: [t̤, d̤, s̤, z̤].

Arabic Vowel Phonemes:

i u
 e ə
 ε ʌ
 a

Allophones Encountered:

i u
 ɪ ʊ
 e ə o
 ε ʌ ɔ
 a a ɑ

Although phonemically, only /i/, /a/, and /u/ are contrastive, allophonically (especially because of the pharyngeal segments) a wide range of variation occurs. Vowel length is contrastive.

I. Spontaneous Speech

II. Word Lists

Pharyngeals - Voiced and Voiceless:

- | | | |
|-----|----------|----------------|
| 1. | [ħalima] | a woman's name |
| 2. | [ħemar] | 'donkey' |
| 3. | [ħiɾm] | 'dream' |
| 4. | [ħut] | 'whale' |
| 5. | [ħajt] | 'wall' |
| 6. | [ħali] | (proper name) |
| 7. | [ħud] | 'guitar' |
| 8. | [ħɛlk] | 'gum' |
| 9. | [ħaʒuz] | 'old' |
| 10. | [ħajtəb] | (proper name) |

11.	[hesan]	'horse'
12.	[habeʃ]	'turkey'
13.	[ħarir]	'silk'
14.	[ʃamʕ]	'candle'
15.	[naʕnaʕ]	'mint'
16.	[ʕīma]	'blind'
17.	[ʕajmarʌ]	'building'
18.	[ʕajsajʌ]	'cane'
19.	[ħaʕ]	'orchid'
20.	[ʔʌħmar]	'red'
21.	[ħamɪd]	'lemon'
22.	[ɛlħasad]	'harvest'
23.	[ʃahən]	'truck'
24.	[ʕa:ləm]	'people'
25.	[ʕeɪm]	'study'
26.	[muʕal:im]	'teacher'
27.	[ħatab]	'wood'
28.	[ħadikʌ]	'garden'
29.	[ʕaləm]	'flag'
30.	[ʕulum]	'science'

Emphatic Consonants:

31.	[tʰi:n]	'figs'
32.	[tʰabl]	'drum'
33.	[dɛmaʕ]	'tear'
34.	[ðɑ:bɪd]	'police'
35.	[sɑʃt]	'summer'
36.	[seʃt]	'sword'
1.	[tʰi:n]	'figs'
2.	[tʰi:n]	'mud'
3.	[ba:t]	'he spent the night'
4.	[ba:t]	'ampit'
5.	[ʕatʌ]	'to give'
6.	[ʕatɛl]	'porter'
7.	[tabʕ]	'to stamp'
8.	[ħat:t]	'to put'
9.	[ħat:a]	'so that'
10.	[dɛl:]	'directed'
11.	[ba:d]	'after'
12.	[baʕd]	'some'
13.	[dɛʕimɛn]	'always'
14.	[ðɑʃt]	'guest'
15.	[ʕad]	'to count'
16.	[ʕarʕɔ]	'to offer'
17.	[ħadi:s]	'conversation'
18.	[ħa:ðɪt]	'ready'
19.	[seʃt]	'sword'

20.	[sɑjɸ]	'summer'
21.	[bes:]	'only'
22.	[bas:]	'he looked'
23.	[aʃ:a]	'extremity'
24.	[aɦsɔn]	'better, best'
25.	[wɛ:sɪɸ]	'wide'
26.	[wɪsɪl]	'to arrive'
27.	[sabi]	'young man'
28.	[sebeb]	'reason'
29.	[zɛ:ʔɪr]	'visitor'
30.	[mafɾu:z]	'selected'
31.	[mahfu:ʒ]	'learnt by heart'
32.	[mazbu:t]	'correct'
33.	[mɑʒbu:r]	'forced'

References:

- Bright, William (ed.). 1992. International Encyclopedia of Linguistics. New York: Oxford University Press. 1:92
- Campbell, George L. 1991. Compendium of the World's Languages. New York: Routledge Press.